

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 11-17, 21-27, 32-34, and 43. The Examiner has objected to claims 6-10, 18-20, 28-31, and 35-42. Applicants are canceling claims 1, 3, 4, 12, 14, 15, 22, 26, and 33 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16-18, 21, 23-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, and 43 have been amended to clarify the features of the invention. Claims 44-52 have been added to further define the invention. As a result, claims 2, 5, 6-11, 13, 16-21, 23-25, 27-32, 34-43, and 44-52 are pending for examination with claims 6, 18, 28, 35, and 44 being independent claims. The amendments made and the new claims added find support in the specification and do not constitute new matter.

The Examiner has objected to claims 6-10, 18-20, 28-31, and 35-42, but considers the claims allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have incorporated the above limitations in the allowable claims, and respectfully request that the claims be formally allowed. Further, Applicants have amended claims 2, 5, 11, 13, 16, 17, 21, 23-25, 27, 32, 34, and 43 to each be dependent on one of the rewritten independent claims, and respectfully request that these amended claims be allowed as well.

Accordingly, reconsideration and examination of the above-referenced Application is requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above

Amendment
Application Number: 10/024,090
Attorney Docket Number: 177835.01

Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3/23/2006

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Rimma N. Oks
Printed Name

Amendment
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